

Aiming for boost in voter turnout

UTB and AACT sign collaboration agreement



PAUL CHOUY/UTB OFFICE OF NEWS AND INFORMATION

UT-Brownsville Provost Alan Artibise (left) and Alberto Morales, program outreach coordinator for AACT Now, sign a partnership agreement to increase voter participation and education Feb. 10 in the Main Building’s Salón Cassia.

By Victoria Brito
THE COLLEGIAN

With early voting for the March 4 primary election starting Tuesday, the University of Texas at Brownsville and the Advocacy Alliance Center of Texas

See **VOTE**, Page 7

Correction

An article published Feb. 10 stated the incorrect amount of financial aid that has been awarded at UT-Brownsville. In fact, \$70 million has been awarded.

Restroom issues

How maintenance works on campus after the split from TSC

By Marlane Rodriguez
THE COLLEGIAN

Freshman psychology major Alejandra Garza and Brownsville Early College High School senior Juan Flores are polar opposites when it comes to their opinions on UT-Brownsville’s restroom maintenance.

Garza said restrooms are relatively clean, while Flores said they are not well kept.

“I have never had any problems, they are actually clean,” Garza said. “I don’t think they’re dirty. The times I’ve been there, they’re pretty clean.”

During her four-month tenure on campus, Garza has never run into any maintenance problems.

“[Custodians] are doing a good job, the times I’ve went to the restroom everything is in its place,” she said.

Flores, who has been on campus for two years, said restroom maintenance is not very good.

“Most of them aren’t very well kept,” he said.

The REK Center and BECHS have clean restrooms, Flores said.

“It’s a very small school, it’s only like 50 students,” he said, referring to BECHS.

Toilet paper on the floor is what makes



MARLANE RODRIGUEZ/COLLEGIAN

Toilet paper is strewn in a stall in the women’s restroom on the second floor of the Life and Health Sciences Building. UTB officials say restrooms are cleaned five times a day.

the restrooms appear dirty, Flores said.

Before UT-Brownsville and Texas Southmost College ended their partnership, the institution had a facilities contract with Aztec Facility Management Solution until 2011, when the contract was awarded to GCA Services Group.

Purchasing Office Director William Dodd said UT-Brownsville pays 8 cents a square foot every month for GCA’s services, which is around the same cost as Aztec.

“When we rebid this we wanted

to make sure that the living wage [for custodians] was increased by about a dollar and a quarter an hour,” Dodd said.

UT-Brownsville implemented the Skip Clean Program to accomplish this. With the program, not all buildings are cleaned with the same frequency.

Restrooms, for example, are cleaned with the same frequency, five days a week; and offices are cleaned three days a week, Dodd said.

Before the partnership ended, UTB/TSC facilities comprised 1.2 million

See **RESTROOM**, Page 7

FAFSA fast assistance



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/COLLEGIAN

Nestor Morales (right), a senior math major and Financial Aid mentor, assists freshman accounting major Daniel Bolanos with his Free Application for Federal Student Aid during the first Financial Aid Nights workshop, held Feb. 10 in the Enrollment Center at the Tower in the Main Building. Other Financial Aid Nights are scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. today, Feb. 18, 26 and 27 and March 5, 6, 18 and 26. The priority deadline to submit theFAFSA is March 1. For more information, call the Financial Aid Office at 882-8277.

To infinity and beyond

Students attend NASA internship info sessions

By Magaly Rosales
SPANISH EDITOR

Eighty-eight UT-Brownsville students attended five recruiting sessions for a chance to score a paid internship with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration agency this summer.

The sessions, held Tuesday and Wednesday in Main Building’s Salón Cassia, were hosted by the university’s Career Services Department and the Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy.

NASA representatives guided students through a step-by-step application process for the internships at the space agency and, more specifically, the John F. Kennedy Space Center through the OSSI (One Stop Shopping Initiative) program.

“We are here to basically help the students apply and get knowledge about how to apply to our opportunities that are out there for NASA,” said Benita DeSuza, lead of the NASA internship,

See **NASA**, Page 14



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/COLLEGIAN

Engie Merino (right), project manager of Hispanic Serving Institutions, NASA One Stop Shopping Initiative, informs UT-Brownsville students about internship programs with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration agency this summer during an information session held Wednesday in the Main Building’s Salón Cassia. Also shown is Lisa Singleton, of the Kennedy Space Center Pathways Program, who also talked to students about the space center’s internship opportunities.

THE COLLEGIAN

The Collegian is the multimedia student newspaper serving the University of Texas at Brownsville. The newspaper is widely distributed on campus and is an award-winning member of the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association.

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SOCIAL MEDIA



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free tax return preparation

Tax professionals certified by the **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance** program will assist anyone (students, staff, etc.) who earned under \$58,000 last year in filing their income tax return for 2013 at no charge. The assistance will be available from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday until Feb. 20 in Main Building 1.100. You must provide your Social Security number, or individual taxpayer identification number, bank information, 2012 personal identification number or adjusted gross income, 1099s and other income forms and W2s. The service is sponsored by the **United Way** and UT-Brownsville's **Office of Financial Aid**. For more information, call Financial Aid Coordinator **Daniel Yarritu** at 882-7890 or e-mail daniel.yarritu1@utb.edu.

FAFSA workshops

UT-Brownsville's **Financial Aid Office** will offer **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** assistance workshops from 5 to 7 p.m. today, Feb. 18, 26 and 27 and March 5, 6, 18 and 26 in the Enrollment Center at the Tower in the Main Building. For more information, call the **Financial Aid Office** at 882-8277.

Free flu shots

Student Health Services will administer flu shots at no charge to UT-Brownsville students from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday in Cortez Hall 237 while supplies last. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call Secretary **Rosie Rivera** at 882-3896.

Snack Bags

Student Health Services, the **Brownsville Ministerial Association**, **Food Bank of Brownsville** and **Brownsville Independent School District's "Youth Project"** are working together to provide **snack bags** to UT-Brownsville students in need of emergency food assistance from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday in Cortez Hall 237 while supplies last. For more information, call Secretary **Rosie Rivera** at 882-3896.

Yoga, Tai-Chi classes

The **Campus Suicide Prevention Program** will host weekly **yoga and tai-chi classes** on the Casa Bella lawn to promote well-being on campus. Certified Instructor **Blanca Ramirez** will host the yoga classes from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday. Mats will be provided. Certified Instructor **Gabriel Sanchez** will host the tai-chi sessions from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. every Thursday. All classes are available for students, faculty and staff at no charge. For more information, call Student Health Services Secretary **Rosie Rivera** at 882-3896.

UTPA pianist to perform

Brendan Kinsella, a professor of piano at the University of Texas-Pan American, will perform in concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the **Texas Southmost College Arts Center**. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and children and \$5 for students with a valid ID. Kinsella's recent performances include concerts in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles. For more information, call the **Patron of the Arts** program at 882-7025 or send an e-mail to patron@utb.edu.

Candidate forums

Candidates for **357th state district court judge** and **Cameron County clerk** will participate in the **2014 Brownsville Candidate Forum**, scheduled Feb. 24 in the Student Union's Gran Salón. The district judge hopefuls will speak at noon, followed by the clerk hopefuls at 5:45 p.m. The public is invited to submit questions for both forums at project100@utb.edu by Wednesday. The event is sponsored by the UT-Brownsville **Center for Civic Engagement Project 100%**. For more information, call the center at 882-4300. **Toastmasters Open House**

UTB **Toastmasters United** invites the public to its **open house**, scheduled from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Main Building's Salón Cassia. Toastmasters United offers a program of communication and leadership projects designed to help people learn the arts of speaking, listening and thinking. For

more information, e-mail the club's vice president of human relations, **Hans Higareda**, at hanz.higareda46@utb.edu.

Super Saturday

UT-Brownsville's **Financial Aid Office** will offer students one-on-one assistance in filling out the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** and **Texas Application for State Financial Aid** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday in Main Building rooms 1.504, 1.508 and 1.514. For more information, call the **Financial Aid Office** at 882-8277.

PWS Scholarship Fund

Applications are being accepted until Feb. 28 for the **Professional Women Speak** Scholarship. The organization will award a \$500 scholarship this semester. For more information, call Business Analyst **Patricia Orozco** at 882-7143 or e-mail patricia.orozco@utb.edu.

'Charro' art show

"**Charro**," an exhibit featuring works by **Gloria Bates, Bob Franklin, Manuel Miranda, Peggy Paris, Carol Plumb, Rosendo Sandoval** and **Ed Vomit**, continues through March at **Galeria 409**, 409 E. 13th St. in Brownsville. The show consists of a variety of media on the subject of *charros* and Charro Days. Admission is free. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and by appointment. For more information, call 455-3599.

Science fair judges needed

The **Episcopal Day School**, 34 N. Coria St. in Brownsville, is seeking judges with various scientific backgrounds for the **Episcopal Day School Science Fair**, scheduled March 6, and the **SAES State Science Fair**, scheduled April 4. Students interested in assisting with the opportunity may e-mail **Sandra Morfitt** at info@episcopaldayschool.net.

--Compiled by Ana Cavazos

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Feb. 4 and 8.

Feb. 4

8:20 a.m.: A student reported that a gold Nissan Altima had struck her vehicle in parking lot A1 while she waited for a parking space. Due to her only observing scratches on her car, the student and the Altima's driver agreed that no information would be exchanged. The student later noticed that the driver side door of her car did not operate correctly. The student was unable to locate the other driver. Damage to her vehicle was estimated at \$600.

2:21 p.m.: A student reported that his Dodge Charger was struck by a Chevrolet as he backed out of a parking space in Lot A1. He exchanged information with the Chevrolet's driver, who is a staff member. The combined damage to both vehicles was estimated at \$800.

4 p.m.: The driver of a Chevrolet Cobalt gave University Police consent to search his vehicle after they noticed a strong odor of marijuana. The officers found an unknown green leafy substance that

tested negative for marijuana. They issued the driver a written warning for operation of a unregistered motor vehicle and driving with an invalid license. The unknown green leafy substance was submitted to the Texas Department of Public Safety crime lab for further testing.

Feb. 5

8:35 p.m.: A student driving a 2010 Nissan Sentra reported that while she was attempting to leave parking Lot B3, the driver of a Chevrolet Malibu vehicle backed out of a parking space and struck her car's back bumper. No injuries were reported. The combined damage to both vehicles was estimated at \$1,500. University Police cited the driver of the Malibu for backing (interfering with traffic).

Feb. 6

9:25 p.m.: A UTB student reported that she tripped over an uneven sidewalk next to parking lot B2 and was feeling a lot of pain in her right ankle and had a scrape on her left knee. The student requested emergency medical services, but later canceled her request and said her mother



would take her to the emergency room. University Police contacted the Physical Plant Department and advised them about the uneven sidewalk.

Feb. 7

10:28 p.m.: A resident assistant at the Casa Bella student housing complex reported that she was called to an apartment in reference to empty alcohol containers. While conducting a room inspection, she came across marijuana and marijuana residue. The apartment's resident, who was present at the time of the inspection, claimed the marijuana. The student was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana and transported to the Carrizales-Rucker Detention Center.

--Compiled by Amanda Arredondo

UT-RGV medical school dean named

UT SYSTEM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AUSTIN--Dr. Francisco Fernandez, professor and chairman of psychiatry and neurosciences at the University of South Florida College of Medicine in Tampa, will be the founding dean of the School of Medicine at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

Fernandez is returning to Texas, where he was a faculty member at UT MD Anderson Cancer Center and Baylor College of Medicine from 1984 to 1997, with an appointment to the faculty of UT Health Science Center-Houston as well.

He joined Loyola University of Chicago in 1997 and the University of South Florida in 2002, serving as the chairman of psychiatry in each institution. In Tampa, he also directed the university's Institute for Research in Psychiatry and Neurosciences. Fernandez is an expert in the brain's relationship to behavior. He currently serves as first vice president of the American College of Psychiatrists and was the recipient of the Simón Bolívar award of the American Psychiatric Association for his work in Hispanic communities.

"We are proud to welcome Dr. Francisco Fernandez back to the University of Texas family in the historic role of founding dean of the Rio Grande Valley's own medical school," said Dr. Francisco G. Cigarroa, chancellor of the UT System. "We are grateful to the

committee members who conducted an extensive national search for this eminently well-qualified psychiatrist, neuroscientist and leader, and we look forward to the extremely important role he will play in the medical school's formative years."

Initially, Fernandez will report to Dr. Francisco González-Scarano, dean of the School of Medicine and vice president for

"We are proud to welcome Dr. Francisco Fernandez back to the University of Texas family in the historic role of founding dean of the Rio Grande Valley's own medical school."

--Francisco G. Cigarroa
UT-System Chancellor

medical affairs at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio as well as the UT System's executive vice chancellor for health affairs, Dr. Ray Greenberg. Once UT-RGV becomes an independent entity, he will report to the new UT-RGV provost and president, as well as Greenberg.

Fernandez will play a critical role in the new medical school attaining accreditation of its undergraduate medical education program by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) and of its residency programs by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

"Dr. Fernandez is a scientist of the first rank, an experienced clinician and a top-flight administrator, and he was the top candidate identified by our nationally competitive search," González said. "I

have great confidence in the steps he will take to reach LCME and ACGME accredited status in accordance with the requirements and timelines of those governing bodies, and I am certain he will attract faculty and students of the highest caliber, including many young Valley natives who wish to stay in the region to pursue their studies of medicine."

In a telephone interview, Fernandez said the new School of Medicine will provide education that is state of the art in terms of the science of medicine while adding a humanistic approach to education that will be inclusive. This will be accomplished within a scholarly community, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, ensuring that the best and brightest in the Valley will have an opportunity to stay and provide care in the region's communities, he said.

Fernandez said the new school of medicine will value the richness that exists in the Valley's communities and the core principles of professionalism, civic responsibility, patient advocacy and community service.

Fernandez will be introduced to the Rio Grande Valley community Feb. 26 and will visit the Regional Academic Health Center and the UT-Pan American and UT-Brownsville campuses to meet with students, faculty, staff and community

See DEAN Page 15

SGA appoints new VP

Will send another vice president to leadership conference in Austin



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/COLLEGIAN

Student Government Association President Stephanie Mendez (right) administers the oath of office to senior finance major Alexandra Rodriguez, who was appointed to the position of vice president of administration during the senate's meeting Feb. 10 in Cortez Hall 118.

By Anthony Cano

THE COLLEGIAN

The Student Government Association has appointed a new vice president of administration and passed a resolution authorizing travel expenses for one member to attend a leadership conference in Austin.

During the senate's Feb. 10 meeting, SGA President Stephanie Mendez nominated Alexandra Rodriguez, a finance and international business major, for vice president and the senate approved the appointment. Rodriguez previously served as a senator for the School of Business.

Rodriguez explained she is interested in students' concerns.

"Something I've noticed, even with the SGA, is [students complain] but it never gets anywhere," she said. "So, something I believe SGA should be working on is finding ways to [reach out to] students, doing very small grass-roots events, such as surveying."

Rodriguez, who last year attended the UT System Student Advisory Council meeting on behalf of the SGA, said she wants to set a protocol for outreach for future semesters.

Asked by Vice President of Accounting and Finance Jackie Sanchez why she wanted the vice president position and what made her suitable for it, Rodriguez replied: "Since I'm graduating, I have a lot of time on my hands. I'm taking 12 hours and Tuesday and Thursday classes ... so I'm pretty flexible. I'm very well-organized and [spent time] organizing a lot of grass-roots events."

The senate also approved \$300 in travel expenses for Sanchez to attend the 2014 University of Texas Ethical Leadership Conference to be hosted by the UT-Austin Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs Thursday through Saturday.

The SGA tabled a resolution that would allocate no more than \$300 to promote SGA elections because of discrepancies in the dates proposed for the upcoming election.

The senate agreed to postpone the vote until its meeting today, which is scheduled at 1 p.m. in Cortez Hall 118.

Utility pipeline in the works

Commission holds public hearing on natural gas project

By Victoria Brito

THE COLLEGIAN

The Brownsville City Commission may soon finalize a deal for a 50-mile underground pipeline for the transportation of natural gas and water and associated communication systems.

On Thursday, the commission held a special meeting at City Hall to conduct a public hearing on the Cross-Valley Pipeline Project, which includes 40 parcels of land from Hidalgo to Cameron counties.

After 38 minutes of City Secretary Estela Von Hatten reading the ordinance, the Brownsville Public Utilities Board General Counsel Eddie Treviño then presented the commission with a slide show on the project.

"The project is the initial undertaking of the City of Brownsville's new gas utility system," Treviño said. "BPUB plans an 800-megawatt power plant in north Brownsville in which BPUB will have ownership, providing approximately 200 megawatts of electricity needed to meet present and future needs of Brownsville customers."

Treviño then explained that BPUB is responsible for the city's electrical needs and showed which geographic locations the pipeline would spread across.

"The Cross-Valley Pipeline Project establishes a 40-foot easement from an area northeast of Edinburg in Hidalgo [County] to the plant site in the vicinity of [FM] 511 in north Brownsville," Treviño said. "The approximately 50-mile line mainly crosses rural farm and ranch lands north of U.S. 83. Initially traveling southeast, it passes north of



VICTORIA BRITO/COLLEGIAN

Brownsville Public Utilities Board General Counsel Eddie Treviño gives a presentation Thursday on plans for the Cross-Valley Pipeline Project that will stretch between Hidalgo and Cameron counties and bring natural gas and water to the area.

the Valley International Airport, crosses the Arroyo Colorado near the Port of Harlingen, where it turns further south towards Brownsville."

The pipeline would involve construction in Hidalgo and Cameron counties. All parcels of land that will be used to make the pipeline will consist of a 40-foot-wide strip of land. Many of the parcels are on privately owned land. Owners will be asked for easements.

During the public hearing, Brownsville resident Robert Uresti asked how much money is being put into the project.

"Unfortunately, that information is, right now, not subject to public disclosure because of the process we're undertaking," Treviño replied. "I can tell you that the board of directors at PUB, and its managing team, is being diligent in its reviews. The Texas government code, because of the competitive sense of nature of this matter, precludes us from releasing that information."

The commission unanimously passed the first reading of the ordinance.

The second and final reading of the

See CITY, Page 14

GET ALL YOUR STORIES ONLINE

WWW.UTBCOLLEGIAN.COM

Editorial

You don't 'eeny, meeny, miny, moe' on a vote

Only two of 10 people vote in the Rio Grande Valley and about 946 eligible UT-Brownsville students are not registered to vote, but we have the power to turn these statistics around by becoming informed voters.

Project 100%, sponsored by UTB's Center for Civic Engagement, will host the 2014 Brownsville Candidate Forum, where students, faculty, staff and community members will be able to learn qualifications and goals of candidates for 357th District Court judge and Cameron County clerk.

357th District Court candidates Gloria M. Rincones and Juan A. Magallanes—both Democrats—and Republican Oscar X. Garcia will make opening remarks and answer questions of interest to the community from noon to 1 p.m. Feb. 24 in the Student Union's Gran Salón. County clerk candidates Arnold R. Flores Jr., Don DeLeon, George Kowalski, Letty Perez-Garzorla and Sylvia Garza Perez—all Democrats—will share their views from 5:45 to 7:05 p.m.

One of the common myths about voting is that a person's vote won't make a difference.

There will always be that one person in every conversation about politics that will discourage others from exercising their right by saying, "Why am I going to

vote? They're still going to elect whoever they want in office."

Wake up, folks! Your vote *does* count. "You count as a citizen of this nation and have the power to express consent for an elected official," states the website

"Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting."

--Franklin D. Roosevelt

for Advocacy Alliance Center of Texas, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that aims to improve voter registration and voter turnout. "Even if you went to a polling location and only voted for one person, it will be counted. By law your vote has to be counted. Your ballot cannot be skipped or ignored otherwise it is unconstitutional. Some people get discouraged and believe that their vote doesn't count when they read about pre-election polls, and see that their candidate is in the losing streak. We have to remember that these are just estimates and they do not accurately reflect the turnout of an election. Sometimes elections can come down to a small number of votes which greatly affects

how your city, state, and nation are run."

Estela Martinez, Center for Civic Engagement coordinator, said there are 4,239 registered voters and 186 new registered voters on campus this semester.

"eeny, meeny, miny, moe" your way through a ballot. That would be a great irresponsibility as a citizen. Your vote will affect the lives of your family, community and the nation.

We tend to focus our attention on presidential elections, but it all starts by making an informed decision about who your local representatives are. The decisions of our district judges and county clerks mold our counties, consequently affecting our livelihood in either a beneficial or detrimental way.

The first step toward changing the statistics is by getting informed. You can start by attending the forum and learning about the candidates running for office this year.

If your family doesn't vote regularly, be the example for future generations. Invite and encourage your family, friends and neighbors to raise their voice through the right of voting.

The mission of Project 100% is to celebrate and protect democracy by increasing informed and committed participation in public discourse.

To submit your questions for both forums, e-mail project100@utb.edu.

The deadline for question submissions is Wednesday. For more information, call the Center for Civic Engagement at 882-4300.

THINK

Do you support the legalization of same-sex marriage?



"I'm not in favor of it. I've always been brought up that a marriage is between a man and a woman, but, I mean, I do respect it. Everybody gets to live the life they want to live and if they want to get married to a same-sex person they can but, personally, I don't agree with it.

Clarissa A. Salinas
Nursing freshman



"Well, as far as same sex, I just think everybody is, I think, capable of doing whatever they think is possible for them to do. I mean, if there are straight people that get married, I think gay people are allowed to do that, they have equal rights, such as straight people as well. I mean, I'm up for it.

Eduardo Pedraza
TSC management and technology sophomore



"I mean, it's their right. I don't see any reason why we should be denying them their natural right to marry. I mean, it's not really an abomination, it's love, and if it is genetic, then who are we to deny them that right. A lot of these people claim that they can't help whether or not if they're homosexual. Why should we pass judgment on to whether or not that's right. It's not like it's ending the world that two men or two women are getting together.

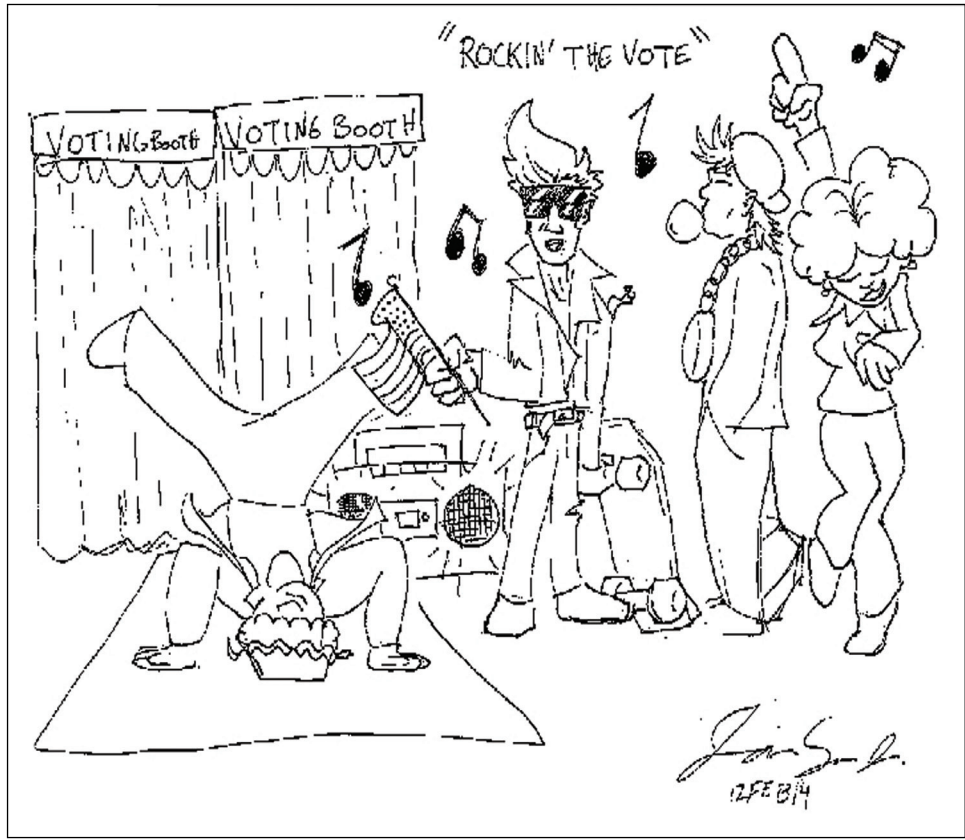
Brandon Easley
Exercise science senior



"Yo siento que todos tienen el derecho de tener el mismo amor y yo digo que todos pueden casarse, y la persona no tiene nada que ver el sexo si no el corazón y el alma".

Maryell Caraveo
Estudiante de biología de tercer año

--Compiled by Anthony Cano
--Photos by Alberto Garcia



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What should I major in?

Degree: Communication
School: College of Liberal Arts
Prerequisites: None
Total credit hours needed to graduate: 120
Communication Department Chair and Associate Professor: John A. Cook

What does the communication degree consist of? “It’s a mixture of a wide variety of things. ... You get a potpourri, you get a mixture of mass communication courses and human communication studies courses. It’s 10 courses that every communication major is required to take and then there is a wide range of electives so you can kind of design your course choices based on what you want to do with your career. Some people come into communication not knowing what career they want, they just know it’s an interesting field of study and we try to provide internships and opportunities for them to experience applied communication in a variety of ways so that they can make some decisions about what they are going to do careerwise.”

Which classes can students expect to take? “In the core, the required courses that they have to take are Intro to Communication Studies, Writing for Media. We have a writing course that everybody has to take. They need to take Intercultural Communication, Public Relations, Communication Theories and Research, Mass Communication and Society, Communication and Conflict Management, and those are the courses that we feel every communication major ought to have. The electives



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/COLLEGIAN

Karon Jahn, senior distinguished lecturer in communication, explains to students Juan Fabian (from left), Frank Corral, Carolina Mendez, Israel Guajardo and Jonathan Cruz the different lighting angles and techniques in producing a video in her Film and Video Production class Wednesday.

include a variety of interesting things like Video and Filmmaking, Radio and TV Announcing ... Gender in Communication and Difficult Dialogues for value and diversity, leadership. We also have a course in training, Principles of Instruction.”

Which skills will students learn by the time they graduate? “They will polish their skills for radio and TV announcing. Again, we encourage them to do internships and practical applications. Sometimes our writing class students get to write for the local

newspaper. We have a photography class. It looks like the photography class is going to get to do some work for some local publications. ... There’s a project going on now, a documentary called “One Day on Earth,” where some students will be allowed to work with a filmmaking [company] for a documentary. We mix our co-curricular with our curricular activities and so we have a service club called the Communication Council. They are getting out in the community to see where they can provide more service. We do believe in service learning and

civic engagement. That gets students connected with the community.”

What salary can a student expect to earn after graduation? “That varies widely. Depending on the career they choose and how competitive they are because of their internships or the portfolio they put together throughout their college career, they can expect anywhere from [\$20,000-plus] to [\$40,000-plus] as a starting salary.”

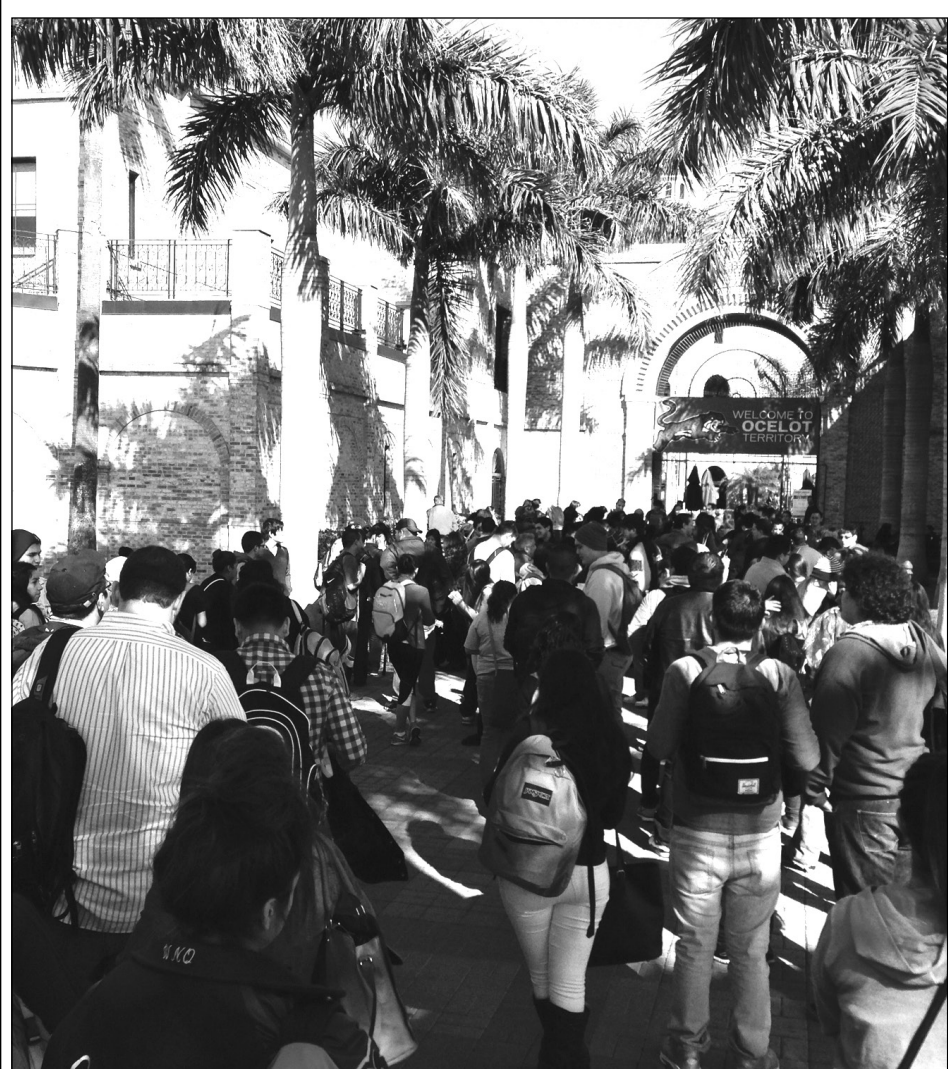
What are some possible careers with this degree? “I have a survey of some of our graduates; I wanted to know what they have been doing since they got their B.A. in communication. It ranges from law school to graduate school, to applying themselves in various fields like public information officers for political appointees. Some of them are actually choosing to go into journalism, or filmmaking, or TV or public relations. A lot of them choose to go into teaching. They decided after they finish their communication degree to get a certification. ... I think the reason we have such a wide range of careers is because a lot of people go into communication thinking: ‘It will prepare me for whatever I do next.’”

Student clubs related to the major: Communication Council, Photography Club and Theater Club.

For more information about the communication degree, call Cook at 882-8851 or visit the Communication Department website at <http://www.utb.edu/vpaa/cla/comm/Pages/default.aspx>

--Compiled by Magaly Rosales

Tripped fire sensor forces Main evacuation



RICK SALDIVAR/SPECIAL TO THE COLLEGIAN

Dozens of UT-Brownsville students and staff stand outside Main Building after a fire alarm sounded Thursday morning. University Police Lt. Rey Treviño said a fire sensor was tripped accidentally by a maintenance worker attempting a repair. Students returned to their classes when the area was deemed safe, Treviño said.

Club Spotlight



AMANDA ARREDONDO/COLLEGIAN

Members of the Ecological Restoration Club include Jessica Sahu Teli (from left), Rachel Arney, Leah McIntosh, Victor Garza, Catheline Froehlich, Miriam Hernandez, Mariela Zamorano and Carolina Camacho. Back row: Mike Bollinger.

Name: Ecological Restoration Club
Established: 2013
Purpose: Offer students the opportunity to become involved with ecological restoration events throughout the community.
President: Leah McIntosh
Vice President: Vacant
Secretary: Vacant
Undergraduate Representative: Mario Villa
Graduate Representative: Rachel Arney
Treasurer: Catheline Froehlich
Webmaster: Mike Bollinger

Adviser: Alejandro Fierro, assistant professor of biology
Community Service: Assisted with dune restoration and Rio Reforestation events; in partnership with City of Brownsville to restore future city park with native vegetation; promotes awareness of local vegetation.
Meetings: 3 p.m. every other Wednesday in the Student Union’s Salón Gardenia. The next meeting is scheduled Feb. 19.
For more information: send a message to Facebook.com/UTBERC
--Compiled by Amanda Arredondo

3 markets I fell in love with

By Ana Cavazos
THE COLLEGIAN

As a traveler, I know how visiting monuments and historical places in cities can get exhausting after several days in a country. The perfect solution for a day off would be visiting the markets in the area. These crowded places are ideal for enjoying the vibrant culture of a country. Markets can be the ideal place to shop for and haggle on the price of souvenirs and meet some of the locals. Here is a list of the three markets I fell in love with while traveling.

1. Grand Bazaar (Kapali Çarşı), Istanbul, Turkey

This is one of the biggest markets in the world, where the Arab-and-Turkish-style mix could capture anyone’s attention. Kapali Çarşı has a large selection of stores where tourists and locals can find almost anything. Traditional costumes, silk textiles, tea sets, antiques, spices and jewelry are among the most popular items. Turkey’s hospitality, Turks’ love of chai tea, the delicious scent of spices and the multicultural background highlight Kapali Çarşı as one of the most unique spots in the world.



ANA CAVAZOS/COLLEGIAN

At the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul, Turkey, shoppers can buy clothing, jewelry, spices, antiques and textiles, among other things.

2. Khan Al-Khalili, Cairo, Egypt

The magnificent pyramids and the controversial mix of urban and Muslim cultures are key features of this city. However, the heart of Cairo is in the

Khan Al-Khalili market. This magical place can truly be called a traditional Arab market, since it is the last medieval market remaining in the city. Its crowded alleys, old Circassian architecture and

their hookah bars would transmit the Arabic vibe to any tourist.

3. La Boquería, Barcelona, Spain

When it comes to food, La Boquería is one of the main attractions in Barcelona. After a walk around the *ramblas*, or streets, the architectural wonders of Gaudi and the beautiful Barceloneta beach, eating delicious jamón Serrano or partaking of a wide selection of olives, meats, cheeses and wine would be the ultimate experience for travelers to gastronomic Catalonia. This old Catalan market has the best culinary products in the city. Visitors certainly will be satisfied with the gastronomic dishes of the market. The most interesting part of La Boquería is that there is a cooking school right outside the market.

Cultural shock may be inevitable after a day in these places, the cultural enlightenment will maximize the stay of any traveler in the country, and some may find it so attractive that they’ll never want to leave.

There are plenty of fun things you can do on the road and these markets are certainly a must for your bucket list.

International Student of the Week

Name: Dillon Gaffney
Age: 20
Hometown: Clane, County Kildare, Ireland
Major: Communication
Classification: Junior
Why did you decide to study here? “I got recruited to play soccer in 2010 and I used to go to school in Washington, D.C., and then I went to school there for two years, and then I got recruited to play soccer here.”
How do you like Brownsville? “I actually do like it, to be fair. I like the weather ‘cause Ireland is really cold and rainy. ... I like the food, Mexican food. I actually do like it here, it is a good little town; it has everything I need, like it has a mall, a cinema, you know, things to do. It’s not the biggest city, but it’s fine.”
What are some of the customs of your country? “If you’re talking to someone older, you shake their hand, and if you’re talking to someone your age, you wouldn’t be shaking their hand. Just kind of say, ‘Hello,’ verbally, like you just wouldn’t touch or anything like that.”
Tell me about some of the traditional dishes of your country. Ham and cabbage is a big one, like a honey-roast ham and like cabbage and potatoes—that’s a big one. Stew is probably the most renowned Irish dish—Irish stew—it’s just pretty much chicken broth and anything you want, vegetables, bacon, sausage, you just put it into a big pot. So, that will probably be our most famous dish.”
What are some of the tourist spots in your country? “Dublin city is really touristy, there’s a lot in Dublin and a lot of history in Dublin, like old prisons and churches and Trinity College, which is really old. Then you go down south [where there is] the Blarney stone and all the medieval castles are around there and in the west you have Connemara, which is a big landscape, and in the north you have Giant’s Causeway. ... It’s really weird, it’s on the coast. ... All the cliffs



are from the weather—the theory is that giants made it, but they’re all hexagonal. ... It’s really cool-looking, but it’s from weathering.”
What differences and similarities do you find between your country and the United States? “The way of life in D.C. was very intense, like a lot of rushing around. People always seem to be busy. Here’s it’s more relaxed. It’d be relaxed in Ireland. ... After a long day of work, you go for a beer or on the weekend you relax and you go to the bar. Here, you wouldn’t do that as much. ... Ireland is really green, the countryside is really beautiful. Here it’s a lot different.”
What are some of the wrong ideas people have about your country? “Well, people think we fight a lot and drink a lot, like we’re drunks, and it’s not that we are drunks. We do drink a lot, but it’s more like part of the culture. ... Most of the time, you wouldn’t get drunk. ... For example, all of the universities in Ireland have bars on campus, so the Student Union would be a bar. Students would just go in during the day and just have a pint [of beer] and just chat over a pint. Or you don’t even have to drink. ... That’s the difference—we socialize in bars—we call them pubs.”
--Compiled by Ana Cavazos



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YOUR NEWS IN ONE PLACE

RESTROOM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

square feet. Now UT-Brownsville is about 856,000 square feet, Dodd said.

Because there is less square footage, UT-Brownsville is not paying as much for custodial services. UT-Brownsville spends about \$50,000 a month on custodial services.

Carlos Arellano, an account manager for GCA Services Group, said GCA provides custodial services to UTB and Texas Southmost College.

“We have employees that work on the TSC side, doing TSC buildings, and employees doing the UTB side,” Arrellano said. “It’s pretty much the way it was before.”

GCA employees are still being moved around to different locations, so all employees are exposed to different buildings, but they do not rotate between UTB and TSC.

“Once a year, we will switch people around, just to do cross-training,” Arrellano said.

No janitors, or hours, were cut due to the split, he said. There are 21 janitors and one supervisor working with UTB, he said. The employees work 30 to 40 hours per week.

When told *The Collegian* has received complaints about restroom maintenance,

Arellano said: “When we get complaints like that, we go and find out what is the problem.”

If it appears the restroom wasn’t cleaned properly, the office will bring it to the employees’ attention, he said.

GCA custodians work one of two shifts, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or 6 p.m. to 3 a.m., with the majority of them working at night.

Martin Cortez, UTB’s facilities maintenance supervisor, said restrooms are cleaned five times a day and has not received any complaints about maintenance.

“It could be that people went in during the break,” Cortez said.

Because UT-Brownsville assigns one janitor to clean 22,000 to 25,000 square feet, there are fewer janitors since the split.

Asked about a toilet that was out of order in the Student Union, Cortez replied that the Union had drainage problems.

Cortez said the drains were unclogged last week, so there shouldn’t be any more problems. He has not been informed of any more toilets not working.

Plumbers inspect all buildings every week, Cortez said.

He said students who have a complaint about restroom maintenance may send an e-mail to custodial@utb.edu.



CLEIRI QUEZADA/COLLEGIAN

Water leaks from a sink drainpipe onto the floor of the first-floor women’s restroom Wednesday night. Additionally, the faucet was left running. *The Collegian* called University Police, who sent Physical Plant staff to fix the problem.

VOTE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

have signed an agreement to work together to increase voter participation and education efforts in the community.

On Feb. 10, UT-Brownsville Provost Alan Artibise opened the signing ceremony by noting the efforts of college students in the 1960s to increase the

at campus events whenever practicable;

--AACT agrees to create an outreach program and Get Out the Vote program in order to target voters and increase voter turnout;

--UTB and AACT agree to coordinate the creation of a voter awareness program and also agree to develop a marketing program to help people understand the relationship between voting and the issues that directly affect citizens’ daily

--Alan Artibise
UT-Brownsville Provost

“I can tell you as someone who, generally, has always been fairly active in politics, it was frustrating not being able to exercise my own franchise, which I am happy to say, I am legal to do now.”

number of voters.

“In the 1960s, literally thousands of college students, largely from the Northern states, but not exclusively, volunteered in the early ’60s to go down south to help people register to vote,” Artibise said while addressing the dozens of people who attended the event in Main Building’s Salón Cassia.

Artibise, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Canada, spoke of how it was difficult to be involved and not be able to cast a vote during the five years before he was eligible to become a U.S. citizen.

“I can tell you as someone who, generally, has always been fairly active in politics, it was frustrating not being able to exercise my own franchise, which I am happy to say, I am legal to do now,” he said. “We’re reminded today that not everybody in our country always had the right to vote.”

He said the agreement with AACT shows the university’s commitment “to do our best through our Center for Civic Engagement ... to encourage especially not only faculty and staff but students to understand early on how important voting is.”

Under the three-year agreement:

--UTB will assist AACT in obtaining a student, staff and faculty directory so that the organization can register and track voters on a nonpartisan basis and will facilitate large-scale voter registration drives and voter education presentations

lives.

Albert Morales, project coordinator for AACT, said the organization is nonprofit and nonpartisan.

“On behalf of our organization, I just want to take the time to thank the University of Texas at Brownsville for hosting this ceremony but, more importantly, for forming this collaboration and this partnership with us,” Morales said.

The Center for Civic Engagement and its Project 100% are committed to having 100% registered voter turnout during the primary elections. The purpose of Project 100% is to “increase voter turnout and political participation by students, faculty and staff on the campus at UTB,” said Mark Kaswan, an assistant professor in the Government Department at UTB and chair of Project 100%.

“Texas is often referred to as a Red state because it reliantly elects Republicans for statewide offices,” Kaswan said. “But Texas really isn’t a Red state, and it’s not a Blue state. Texas is a nonvoting state. Statewide, voter turnout in Texas is just about 50 percent for the big elections. It’s much worse for other elections. And in the [Rio Grande Valley], by the way, that puts us 48th in the nation in voter turnout; we’re the basket case of the state. In the presidential election in 2012, Cameron County broke a record for the highest voter turnout, 40 percent. In the elections last November, which were



MAGALY ROSALES/COLLEGIAN

UT-Brownsville Provost Alan Artibise (left) presents Jacqueline Morales, a UTB Math and Science Academy junior, with the first-place certificate for her essay, “We Are Not Satisfied,” during a ceremony Feb. 10 in Main Building’s Salón Cassia. Also shown is Government Assistant Professor Mark Kaswan, chair of Project 100%. Morales won a \$1,000 scholarship in the DREAMers and the Dream essay contest.

UT-Brownsville Voter Demographic	
Students registered to vote:	4,239
Eligible students not registered to vote:	946
Staff Registered to vote:	102
Eligible staff not registered to vote:	15
Source: Center for Civic Engagement	
VICTORIA BRITO/COLLEGIAN GRAPHIC	

on some constitutional amendments, turnout was under 5 percent.”

Kaswan said that getting people out to vote is the solution to the problem.

During the ceremony, he presented awards to the winners of an essay contest, titled “DREAMers of the Dream,” on the connection between the issue of immigration and the Rev. Martin Luther

King’s call for equal treatment for all.

The first-place winner of the Dream essay contest was Jacqueline Morales, who received \$1,000; second-place winners were Catherine Amy Frazier and Karen Rodriguez, who each received \$500; and the four third-place winners, each of whom received \$250, were Ana

See **VOTE** Page 15

"FIND THE MYSTERY WORD!" WINNER



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR "FIND THE MYSTERY WORD!" WINNER-WEEK 5



The word was "sweetheart"
BRENDA ALTAMIRANO
UT-BROWNSVILLE JUNIOR MATHEMATICS MAJOR

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CONTEST RULES

1. Pick up a copy of The Collegian each Monday.
2. Read the paper!
3. Find the single bold letters within the text of stories that make up the mystery word.
4. Find the hint to the mystery word on the opinion page.
5. If you find the mystery word, be the first person to visit our office, located in Student Union 1.10, and show us the mystery word to receive your prize.
6. Participants may win only once per semester.
7. The winner's photo will be published in The Collegian.

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Magallanes

for 357th
District Court

EARLY VOTING
February 18-28, 2014

ELECTION DAY
March 4, 2014

Personal:

- Married to Esther Farias
- Children: Siena Paloma, Seneca & Joaquin

Education:

- Bachelor of Liberal Arts University of Texas-Austin, May 1977
- Doctorate of Jurisprudence Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Houston, Texas, May 1980
- State Bar of Texas License November 1980

Professional Memberships:

- President of Chicano Law Student Association, 1976-1977
- Rio Grande Trial Lawyers Association, 1988-1989
- Texas Trial Lawyers Association
- The Association of Trial Lawyers of America
- American Bar Association
- United States District Court of Southern District of Texas
- Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
- United States Court of Appeals 5th Circuit
- State Bar of Texas Director - 1992-1995
- 2009 Member of Cameron County Local Court Rules Amendment Committee

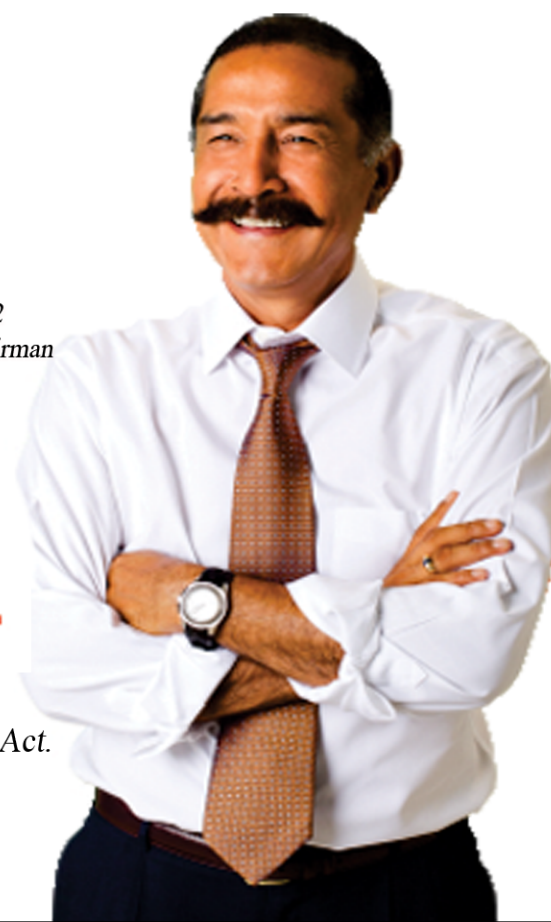
Community Membership and Activities:

- Brownsville Airport Advisor Board Member
- Gulf Coast Coalition Board of Directors
- Brownsville Heritage Foundation
- Brownsville Board of Adjustments & Appeals
- Cameron County Juvenile Advisory Board
- La Esperanza School for Boys & Girls Director
- Greater Texas Legal Foundation Director
- Brownsville Charter Review Committee Member

Political Memberships:

- Cameron County Democratic Chairman 1988-1992
- Cameron County Democratic Precinct No. 12 Chairman
- Delegate to State Democratic Convention
- Mexican-American Democrats
- Texas Democratic Round Table

2014



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Acción Deportiva

Naranjeros de Hermosillo se coronan en el Caribe



Por Juan Esteve



El equipo de los Naranjeros de Hermosillo ganaron el campeonato de la Serie del Caribe Margarita 2014. Esto significa el bicampeonato para el equipo Azteca quien ganó en 2013, representados por los Yaquis de Cd. Obregón, esto en el parque Sonora en Hermosillo, México.

Al ganar el título de la Serie del Caribe por pizarra de 7-1 el pasado 8 de febrero, al equipo de Indios de Mayaguez de Puerto Rico, Los Naranjeros hicieron la hazaña del bicampeonato para la pelota Mexicana. El juego final de la Serie del Caribe tuvo como pitcher ganador a Juan Delgadillo, quien se fue con un record de 2-0 en la serie y tiró un juego bastante bueno al no permitir carreras en siete entradas con solo cuatro hits y después del partido el mismo Delgadillo declaró lo siguiente al saberse campeón: “A mis padres, a mi esposa, a mis dos hijas. Esto es lo mejor que me pudo haber pasado. [Es] la coronación de una excelente temporada, de tanto esfuerzo”.

Las carreras de Naranjeros llegaron en la sexta cuando el jardinero Chris Roberson conectó un jonrón solitario por el derecho para poner en ventaja a los mexicanos. Después el primera base Daryle Ward impulsaría una más para poner las cosas 2 a 0, sin embargo en esa misma entrada habría más porque el receptor refuerzo para la serie, Sebastián Valle, conectó tremendo grand slam por todo el jardín izquierdo para poner la pizarra 6-0, loza que sería muy difícil de remontar para los boricuas. El equipo mexicano agregó una más en la octava y finalmente los Indios de Mayaguez, representantes boricuas, hicieron la carrera de la honrilla en la parte alta de la novena cuando el juego ya estaba definido.

Sin embargo, para el equipo de Puerto Rico, este fue un gran logro llegar a la final de la Serie del Caribe, ya que en años anteriores ellos se habían quedado fuera en la primeras rondas además el haber llegado a la final les da ánimo a los dirigidos por Carlos Baerga porque el equipo de Puerto Rico será sede en 2015 de este torneo.

Los Naranjeros demostraron que el mejor nivel de béisbol invernal se ha venido jugando en la Liga Mexicana del Pacífico desde hace ya varias temporadas. México suma su tercer título en cuatro años en esta denominada Serie Mundial Latinoamericana. ¡Felicidades, Naranjeros!

--Juan Esteve es estudiante de comunicación de tercer año.

2 tourneys in 1 week for golfers

Teams play in Victoria today; men to co-host S.A. Shootout Sunday



PHOTOS COURTESY UTB ATHLETICS

UT-Brownsville golfer Angela Zepeda and Michael Fasci practice earlier this semester.

By Michelle Espinoza
THE COLLEGIAN

The UT-Brownsville Men’s and Women’s Golf teams are competing today in the Claud Jacobs Collegiate Invitational hosted by the University of Houston-Victoria.

Playing for the men’s team are Saad Milan, Eric Cavazos, Justin Kitten, Jon Ybarra and Michael Fasci. Nine schools are in the tournament.

In an interview Thursday, Golf Coach Daniel Hayden told *The Collegian* he expects good results.

“I would be extremely happy if we could finish in the top half of the

field, it’d be awesome, it’d be a great accomplishment,” Hayden said via telephone.

Asked how he felt going into the tournament, Milan told *The Collegian*: “We’ve been practicing a lot during these past weeks, so I think we all feel good about the tournament. I feel like we’re going to do pretty good in our first tournament.”

UTB is facing off against eight other teams, including its biggest rival, UH-Victoria.

On Sunday, the men’s team will co-host the San Antonio Shootout with Oklahoma City University that will feature 14 teams.

The women finished last of seven teams at the Jack Brown Memorial Golf Tournament hosted by Texas A&M International University Feb. 10 at the Laredo Country Club. The competition was cut short by one day because of rain and temperatures in the mid-30s.

“A weakness we had was short game. [It] was probably our weakness in the tournament and that’s something we definitely need to improve on,” Hayden said. “I was extremely proud of the women for the first tournament of the year.

“Being the first tournament of the year it’s a tournament that you learn a lot

See **GOLF**, Page 14

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Name: Paulette Tostado
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Biomedical Sciences
Sport: Golf
Hometown: Brownsville

Who is your favorite athlete? “At the moment it’s Adam Scott. He’s a golfer, and it’s because he’s always been the underdog. He’s from Australia and he actually won the Masters. He won the tournament but someone else finished and beat his score. They tied, so they went and had to play more holes and he still beat him, but it was very close.”

Who is your role model? “My role model right now is [Research Assistant Professor and MBRS-RISE Program Director] Kari Brewer Savannah. She works here in the biomedical department. She has a Ph.D. and she worked at [the University of Texas] MD Anderson [Center], which is a very important cancer hospital in Houston. So she’s helping me out with all my research opportunities in the summer. And she’s my mentor right now.”

What is the best advice you’ve been given and by whom? “I think it would be my mom. She says to always be positive and work hard and everything will fall

into place. And it might take a little while for you to see results. For example, when you go to the gym, or golf, or school you never really see the end until you take an exam or ...”

What do you like to do for fun? “For fun, I actually really enjoy going out to dinner with the golf girls. We have done it four to five times and every time we go we, like, close down the restaurant. Like the restaurant is closing and they’re like, ‘Can you please leave?’”

When did you begin playing golf and why did you start playing? “I would say I started when I was about 5. Every summer we go to Morelia, [Mexico] and there’s a summer program in the mountains and it’s really cool. They teach tennis, golf, swimming, jazz and soccer, but the golf moms got together and we’re like ‘No, just golf,’ so every summer I go.”

Did you play in high school and did you get any awards? “Yes, I played with Saint Joseph Academy and we went to state three times and I went to state individually once without the team. I got third in district and that was like the best thing ever.”

What is your favorite movie? “I actually don’t watch movies right now because I’m so focused on medicine.



My medical career takes a lot of hours to study, plus another four hours of golf every day.”

What are your goals for the season? “For this season I really want to be shooting in the 90s and I hope to get ‘Most Improved’ at the Athletic Banquet.”

Is there a song that gets your head in the game? “It’s usually hip-hop [that] gets in my head. It’s so weird, but anything that has rap and has a nice bass.”

--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza



Al infinito y más allá



Estudiantes asisten a sesiones informativas de NASA



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/COLLEGIAN

Estudiantes de UT-Brownsville escuchan la presentación sobre la oportunidad de entrar a una práctica pagada con NASA en el verano. Ochenta y ocho estudiantes asistieron a las cinco sesiones informativas el pasado miércoles en el Salón Cassia del edificio *Main*. Los estudiantes tienen que ser de universidad o preparatoria de tiempo completo, tener por lo menos un promedio de 3.0 y ser ciudadanos estadounidenses.

Por Magaly Rosales

EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

Ochenta y ocho estudiantes de UT-Brownsville asistieron a las cinco sesiones de reclutamiento de NASA para tener una oportunidad de conseguir una práctica pagada con la agencia de Administración Nacional de Aeronáutica y Espacio este verano.

Las sesiones, las cuales fueron el martes y miércoles en el Salón Cassia del edificio *Main*, fueron organizadas por el departamento de *Career Services*

y el centro de astronomía de ondas gravitacionales de la universidad.

Los representantes de NASA guiaron a los estudiantes paso a paso por el proceso de solicitud para las prácticas de la agencia espacial y, más específicamente, el centro espacial John F. Kennedy a través del programa OSS (One Stop Shopping Initiative), por sus siglas en inglés.

“Estamos aquí para ayudar a los estudiantes a someter solicitud y obtener el conocimiento de cómo someter

solicitudes para las oportunidades que NASA brinda”, dijo Benita DeSuza, guía del programa de prácticas y becas del centro espacial Kennedy. “Tenemos un sistema el cual se puede convertir en algo intimidador para los estudiantes. Uno de los propósitos de estar aquí es para ayudar a los estudiantes y explicarles el proceso de solicitud y darles consejos de como someter una solicitud”.

Cada estudiante solicitando una práctica con la agencia requiere ser un ciudadano estadounidense, tener un promedio de 3.0 o más, estar asistiendo a una institución acreditada, tener por lo menos 16 años de edad, aprobar los requerimientos médicos y de seguridad, y los requisitos necesarios para la posición.

La paga por hora en la agencia depende de la clasificación del estudiante: \$13.55 por hora para un estudiante con 30 créditos por horas por semestre, \$15.15 por hora para estudiantes con 60 horas por semestre, \$16.89 por hora para estudiantes con 90 horas por semestre, y \$18.77 por hora por un estudiante que ha completado una titulación.

Aunque la agencia busca estudiantes en campos técnicos como ingeniería aeroespacial, ingeniería mecánica, ingeniería eléctrica, ingeniería y ciencias de computadoras, ingeniería industrial e ingeniería civil, y campos no técnicos como comunicación, relaciones públicas, finanzas, comercio, manejo de empresas, contabilidad y recursos humanos, los estudiantes también pueden pedir ser puestos en un área de su interés.

“Un área de interés puede ser una especialización, puede ser una especialización secundaria,” dijo Engie

Merino, manejadora de proyecto del fondo de becas hispana y NASA OSS. “Puede ser un área en la cual puedes estar interesado en obtener experiencia u oportunidades. ... No tiene que ser tu especialización, o especialización secundaria en la transcripción académica. Este eres tú diciendo, ‘Estoy interesado en explorar estas áreas en especial’”.

Cuando se le preguntó porque estaba interesada en una práctica con NASA, Laura Ham, una estudiante de cuarto año de contabilidad y MBA integrado, respondió: “Creo que será una gran oportunidad para mi desarrollo profesional. Escuché que tienen finanzas y contabilidad y como una estudiante nada más he tenido el concepto. Creo que esta será una gran oportunidad para practicar lo que he aprendido en clase”.

Después de completar la sesión de información, los estudiantes tuvieron la oportunidad de apuntarse para una entrevista. Cincuenta y cuatro estudiantes fueron entrevistados el jueves pasado por representantes de NASA, dijo Juan Andrés Rodríguez, director de programa del departamento de *Career Services*.

La fecha límite para la práctica de verano es el primero de marzo.

Para más información en las prácticas de NASA, visite www.pathways.ksc.nasa.gov o www.nasajobs.nasa.gov.

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¿Qué especialidad elegiré?

Especialización: Comunicación
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Requisitos: Ninguno
Número de horas de créditos necesarias para graduación: 120
Catedrático y profesor del departamento de comunicaciones: John A. Cook

¿De qué consiste la especialización de comunicación? “Es una mezcla de una gran variedad de cosas. ... Tienes un popurrí, es una mezcla de cursos en comunicación de masas y estudios de comunicación. Todos los estudiantes de comunicación requieren tomar 10 clases y hay una gran variedad de clases opcionales con la que puedes diseñar tu currículum basado en lo que quieres hacer en tu carrera. Algunos estudiantes vienen a comunicación sin saber qué carrera quieren ejercer, nada más saben que es un área interesante y tratamos de proveerles las prácticas y oportunidades para que experimenten de varias maneras y decidan lo que harán en su carrera”.

¿Qué clases se pueden esperar que tomen los estudiantes? “Las clases requeridas que tienen que tomar son Introducción de Estudios de Comunicación, Escritura para el Medio de Comunicación... Comunicación Intercultural, Relaciones Públicas, Teorías e Investigación de Comunicación, Sociedad y Comunicación de Masas, Manejo de Comunicación y Conflicto, y esas son clases que sentimos que todos los estudiantes de comunicación deben de tomar. Las clases opcionales incluyen una variedad de cosas interesantes como Video y Filmación, Anuncio de Radio y



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/COLLEGIAN

Karon Jahn, profesora de comunicación, explica la importancia de las técnicas de iluminación a sus estudiantes de la clase de Producción de Filme y Televisión el miércoles pasado.

Televisión... Comunicación y Géneros, y Diálogos Difíciles. También tenemos una clase en entrenamiento, Principios de Instrucción”.

¿Qué habilidades aprenderán los estudiantes para el tiempo que se gradúen? “Van a pulir sus habilidades para anunciar en la radio y televisión. Otra vez, los animamos a que participen en una práctica. A veces, nuestros estudiantes de la clase de escritura tienen la oportunidad de escribir para el periódico local. Tenemos una clase

de fotografía, al parecer la clase de fotografía va a hacer unos trabajos con unas publicaciones locales. ... Hay un proyecto, un documental llamado “*One Day on Earth*,” donde unos de nuestros estudiantes trabajarán con una compañía de filme para el documental. Tenemos un club llamado consejo de comunicación. Ellos salen a la comunidad para ver en donde pueden servir. Creemos en aprendizaje servicial y compromiso cívico. Conecta a los estudiantes con la comunidad”.

¿Qué salario pueden esperar los estudiantes al graduarse? “Eso varía ampliamente. Dependiendo de la carrera que escojan y que tan competitivos fueron con las prácticas y el portafolio que crearon mientras eran estudiantes, pueden esperar ganar un salario de [\$20,000 o más] a [\$40,000 o más] de comienzo”.

¿Cuáles son posibles profesiones en esta carrera? “Tengo una encuesta de unos de nuestros estudiantes graduados; quería saber qué es lo que han hecho desde que obtuvieron su titulación en comunicación. Varía desde escuela de leyes a escuela de postgrado, a emplearse en varios campos laborales como oficiales de información pública para políticos. Algunos de ellos escogieron periodismo, filme o... relaciones públicas. Varios de ellos deciden enseñar. Lo decidieron después de terminar su titulación en comunicación consiguiendo una certificación. ... Creo que la razón por la que tenemos una gran variedad de carreras es porque la gente estudia comunicación pensando: ‘Me va a preparar para lo que sea que siga’”.

Organizaciones estudiantiles relacionadas con la especialización: Consejo de comunicación, club de fotografía y club de teatro.

Para más información sobre la especialización de comunicación, llame a Cook al 882-8851 o visite la página Web del departamento de comunicación en <http://www.utb.edu/vpaa/cla/comm/Pages/default.aspx>

--Recopilado por Magaly Rosales

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An infectious culture

How zombies bit into our brain

By **Alberto Garcia**
THE COLLEGIAN

Food and water: check. Flashlight, running shoes and basic first-aid kit: check. Knives, guns and a whole lot of ammo: check. A copy of the list of rules that the character Columbus has in the 2009 film “Zombieland” to survive a zombie apocalypse: check. Extensive knowledge of the mindless, flesh-eating freaks through movies, video games, books and the Internet: checkmate.

This list makes up the ideal zombie-survival kit. It is a list of crucial provisions that will have anyone more than prepared to face a nightmarish, hell-on-earth situation. The most important provisions would appear to be the food, the water, the guns and the ammo. These alone could amount to a 50-50 chance of survival, considering how well people ration their food and water and considering our nature to be naturally defensive against attacks by wielding weapons or throwing fists.

However, the most important items on this list are neither weapons nor a candy bar but rather, the knowledge and the modern fascination with the idea of zombies that spreads in our minds like an infection from a zombie bite to the head. The spreader of this pop culture infection



is manifested through the George A. Romero classics such as “Night of the Living Dead” and “Dawn of the Dead,” through comic books and their television adaptations, such as the widely popular AMC series “The Walking Dead,” through mind-boggling and visually striking

video games like the graphic “Resident Evil” and through many other ideas that are shared and known of through the Internet and social media.

People become infected with the idea of a zombie apocalypse to the point of creating their own survival kit. Yes, the

list above is my personal kit. Guilty as charged. Go ahead and call me a geek, but this geek will be prepared when you come and try to have my brains for dinner. If you haven’t compiled one yet, feel free to use mine as your template. You may just avoid becoming a gutless corpse on the ground when the apocalypse hits.

History experts claim that the term *zombie*, derived from the Haitian word *zonbi*, is defined as the supernatural power that according to voodoo belief may enter into and reanimate a dead body. National Geographic’s historical documentary, “The Truth Behind Zombies,” presents evidence and gathers testimonies of experts, historians, doctors and scholars that all trace the origins of zombies back to Haitian and African voodoo. They believe witchcraft and hypnosis by voodoo priests had the power to reanimate corpses or fall into a religious trance without control of one’s own body. They discuss how voodoo priests who fell victims to the slave trade practiced witchcraft on other slaves in order to have them better mindlessly obey their masters.

Western slave owners in colonial times coined the term *zombie* when they heard the slaves’ exchange of Haitian dialect. This was believed to be the origin of Western influence of the zombie. Such history is rather strange and a bit frightening. Seems bad enough that, historically, zombies are literally people possessed by witchcraft. So when and how did the virus-infected, **undead** walker version of zombies come

See **ZOMBIES**, Page 14

From pop culture to folk saints

UT-Brownsville Visual Arts faculty showcase work

By **Amanda Arredondo**
THE COLLEGIAN

Long before “Faculty Show” was scheduled to open its doors at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday night, a crowd of people lined up outside Rusteberg Hall, anxiously waiting to see works of art by UT-Brownsville Visual Arts faculty members.

The artists featured were Professor Carlos G. Gómez and Lecturers Stephen Hawks, Julian Rodriguez and Alejandro Macías, who also serves as director of the Gallery at Rusteberg Hall.

Gómez, who is chairman of the department, said the purpose of the exhibition is to show his students what happens when they have good craftsmanship.

“Some of these paintings here are 34 or 35 years old, and the paintings still look fresh ... so I wanted to inspire [my students],” he said.

Gómez said the inspiration for his creations comes from life.

“Very simply, life, the events of life, things that I see, things that affect me on a daily basis,” he said.

Gómez is a graduate of Washington State University and has been teaching for 32 years. One of his pieces, an oil-on-canvas painting titled “*La biblia es bella pero el humano no*,” shows a person sitting in front of a television.

Hawks, who has been teaching at UTB for three-and-a-half semesters and is a graduate of Florida State University, said

the inspiration for one of his works, “The Head of the Corner,” came from time. The piece features a chalkboard from Hawks’ classroom where a video of him playing the trumpet is played. During the exhibit, Hawks interacts with the work by drawing and erasing various things.

“It’s an hour’s worth of footage condensed to seven minutes and it has to do with time,” he said. “About the nature of ideas, how they’re fashionable one minute and then they’re erased.”

Hawks said he grew up in a family where art is important. “My father was an artist, my mother had some art training,” he said.

Rodriguez, who grew up in Mission, has been teaching for five years, including 1½ years at UTB.

“I’ve been interested in art at a very early age,” he said. “I went into art as a career my sophomore year in high school.”

Among Rodriguez’s works in the show is “Santo Remedios,” an earthenware-and-acrylic folk saint in a robe holding a piece of bamboo.

Rodriguez said his work deals with culture and folk saints.

Macías, who is a UTB alumnus, said that his inspiration comes from family, friends and pop culture figures.

One of his pieces, the oil-on-canvas “Walken on Some Flowers,” shows the actor Christopher Walken with a flower over his mouth.

Junior art education major Josie Del Castillo told *The Collegian* she was drawn to the art show because she wanted to see some of her professors’ work.

“I wanted to see what my professors’



ALBERTO GARCIA/COLLEGIAN

“El Santito,” an earthenware and acrylic sculpture by artist Julian Rodriguez, is among the artworks in the “Faculty Show” exhibit in the Gallery at Rusteberg Hall.

work is and kind of find guidance and inspiration,” Del Castillo said.

The “Faculty Show” continues through the first week of March. Admission is \$1. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 2

p.m. Monday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and 9-10 a.m. and noon to 4 p.m. Friday. For more information, send an e-mail to Macías at alejandro.macias1@utb.edu.

ZOMBIES
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

to be known? Why did we create the idea that monsters would one day lead to our impending doom?

It is thrill. More than thrill, it is instinct. It is the instinct to survive. As humans we enjoy challenging our limits. We test the core of our physical strength when we work out and our limits change, as we grow stronger and learn to endure pain. We try to veer clear of the destroyers of our body by eating healthy and try not to stuff ourselves with slices of pizza or a 12-oz. can of Dr. Pepper. We bear arms as a constitutional right, but we bear them instinctively when we decide that protection of one's self and loved ones must be ensured.

In the zombie apocalypses that the annals of pop culture have shown us,

NASA
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

fellowship and scholarship programs at the Kennedy Space Center. "We have actual systems that you apply to and it can become a bit daunting for the students. So one of the purposes for being here is really to help the students and try to explain the application process and give them some tips in terms of how to apply."

Each student applying for an internship is required to be a U.S. citizen, have a grade point-average of 3.0 or higher, be currently attending an accredited institution, be at least 16 years old, meet security and medical requirements and meet all qualifications in the desired position.

The hourly pay rate for an intern at the agency depends on the student's classification: \$13.55 an hour for a student with 30 semester credit hours, \$15.15 per hour for students with 60

physical strength, the rationing of food and the importance of always packing some steam seems to work in favor of the beloved characters that become our heroes in the midst of the zombie apocalypse.

Those attributes work in favor for Joel and Ellie in the PlayStation 3 video game hit "The Last of Us," in which the pair survives through a world plagued by a more realistic fungal/virus outbreak that turns people into zombielike creatures. Jim, the bicycle courier who wakes up from a coma in "28 Days Later" after the world became infected with a rage virus, survives by learning the basics of strength, rationing and staying in groups. The reporter and cameraman in the Spanish-language film "[REC]," attempt to survive an apartment complex maze occupied by zombies that are demonically possessed and controlled by a supernatural entity. They survive by simply running and literally praying for their lives.

semester hours, \$16.89 an hour for a student with 90 semester hours, and \$18.77 per hour for a student who has already completed a bachelor's degree.

Although the agency looks for students majoring in technical fields such as aerospace engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, computer science and engineering, industrial engineering and civil engineering, and non-technical fields such as communication, public relations, finance, marketing, management, accounting and human resources, students can request to be placed in an area of their interest.

"An area of interest can be a major, it *can* be a minor, it can be a specialization," said Engie Merino, project manager for the Hispanic Scholarship Fund and NASA OSSSI. "It can be any area that you are generally interested in receiving opportunities or experience in. ... It does not need to be a major, a minor or something specific on your academic transcript. This is you saying, 'I am

Whatever scenario that pop culture prepares us for, chances are nobody will be ready if the zombie apocalypse becomes a reality. We can only hope to rely on our survival kit and see how long we can last before we start craving human flesh. Our fascination of the zombie will continue to develop in our minds and in the minds of the generations that are to come as we allow pop culture to bite into our brains. The dawn of the infected culture is nigh. Don't be surprised if our children and grandchildren become zombies themselves as a result of the infection that comes from being sucked into the world of pop culture. It's alarming to imagine a world without humans; a world where everyone is brain dead as a result of getting sucked into the idea of zombies and the end of the world, but in the words of the "Zombieland" character, Columbus, "Without other people, you might as well be a zombie."

interested in exploring these specific areas."

Asked why she was interested in an internship with NASA, Laura Ham, a senior accounting major with an integrated MBA, replied: "I think it will be a great opportunity for professional development. I heard they have finance and accounting and as a student I only have the concept theory. I think this will be a great opportunity to actually practice what I have learned in class."

After completing an information session, students had the opportunity to sign up for an interview. Fifty-four students were interviewed Thursday by NASA representatives, said Juan Andrés Rodríguez, program director for the Career Services Department.

The application deadline for the summer internship is March 1.

For more information on NASA internships, visit www.pathways.ksc.nasa.gov or www.nasajobs.nasa.gov.

GOLF
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

[from] and it's a tournament that you know what you need to work on in the remainder of the semester. Definitely looking forward to the some major improvements for the rest of the year."

Midwestern State shot a 22-over 310 to finish in first place. Midwestern player Brenna Moore won individually with final scores of 36-37-73.

The Ocelots were led by Veronica Vasquez, who finished in the top 10 (41-40-81) with a sixth-place finish, according to a news release from the UTB Athletics Department. Elizabeth Garza ended the tournament with one-round scores of 44-42-86; Angela Zepeda, 51-48-99; and Paulette Tostado, 48-51-99.

Asked about her performance in Laredo, Veronica Vasquez replied: "I think I performed well, I played decent but, of course, there's room for improvement, so that's what I'm working on this week for this upcoming tournament."

Vasquez was looking forward to the Victoria tournament.

"Last year it was at this golf course that I shot my best score, I believe, so I'm really looking forward to this tournament and I think I'm a different player," she said. "I think I've improved since last year, so I'm really stoked to see how I perform this year."

CITY
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ordinance will be held March 18.

In other business, the commission authorized the city to become a member of the Rio South Texas Economic Council again.

The dues owed to the council will be \$17,500 annually; the fee will give the city representation in the council that includes voting rights on the board of directors.

Deputy City Manager Pete Gonzalez presented the action item, which was recommended by District 3 Commissioner Deborah Portillo and District 4 Commissioner John Villarreal.

Mayor Tony Martinez asked the commission if joining the council would be "really worthwhile" to the city.

Villarreal replied, "We have, more Deborah than I have, we have consulted with finance and this will work in tandem with our retail coach, which we just approved a couple of meetings ago, so we need to get our tax base built up with Pete's blessing."


Gonzalez said that joining the council will be better for the city's image.

"My only concern is the funding for this \$17,500," District 1 Commissioner Ricardo Longoria said. "Where is this funding coming from?"

Gonzalez told the commission that the funds come from a membership fee account that the city has in place and that there is money in that account to pay the dues of the council.

The next meeting of the commission will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday in City Hall.

Stress buster



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/COLLEGIAN

UT-Brownsville students follow instructions from registered yoga instructor Blanca Ramirez on Tuesday in the Casa Bella clubhouse. Student Health Services' Campus Suicide Prevention Program sponsors the Hatha Yoga classes, which take place from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the student housing complex. Tai-Chi classes are offered from 5:30-6:30 p.m. every Thursday for students, faculty and staff.



Chancellor Cigarroa to resign

Will remain as UT System’s chief until replacement is found

By **Marlane Rodriguez**
THE COLLEGIAN

During a special news conference Feb.10, University of Texas System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa announced he would resign to return to transplant surgery.

Cigarroa, who has served as chancellor since 2009, will stay in his current role until a replacement is found, after which he will become head of the pediatric transplant team at the UT-Health Science Center at San Antonio.

“I am embarking on a new and exciting adventure,” Cigarroa said during a news conference in Austin. “I was offered this position at the end of December and, in fact, on January 15 I briefed my chairman that I was inclined to accept this offer.”

Cigarroa, who was influential in establishing the new university in the Rio Grande Valley and medical school, will also serve as a special liaison to the UT System board of regents to advise on the development of the institution, Chairman Paul Foster said.

“He will be here to provide us counsel and guidance,” Foster said. “We will be forever grateful for his service.”

In an e-mail Feb.10 to the university campus, UT-Brownsville President Juliet V. García said: “Chancellor Cigarroa’s announcement is certainly bittersweet for all of us in South Texas and for me



COLLEGIAN FILE PHOTO

University of Texas System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa addresses students about the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley in September in the Student Union’s Gran Salón.

personally.”

García said his legacy of courageous leadership in an honorable, respectful and highly ethical manner is unparalleled.

“He was willing to spend his own personal capital to ensure that the people

of South Texas would forever have the promise and hope that results from a higher education,” she said.

Foster said: “I have the highest admiration and respect for Chancellor Cigarroa, and there is no doubt in my

mind that his leadership has had a tremendous and profound impact at all of our institutions.”

Cigarroa, Foster and the board of regents will work together to search for a new chancellor.

DEAN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

members. The assets and resources of UTB, UTPA and the RAHC are being combined to create UT-Rio Grande Valley. The new university is expected to enroll its inaugural class in Fall 2015. The medical school will be integrated into the university and is expected to enroll its first class in the Fall 2016.

“I am excited and humbled by this

tremendous opportunity to build the UT Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine into a world-class educational center. The chance to build a medical school from the ground up in a region as richly diverse and wonderful as South Texas is a dream come true,” Fernandez said. “To be part of an initiative like this that will have so much impact, is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I’m eager to get started and become part of the Valley community.”

Fernandez, 62, was born in Cuba and

is a naturalized U.S. citizen. He received a bachelor’s degree from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., in 1974 and earned a medical degree from the Tufts University School of Medicine at Boston in 1979. He completed an internship in internal medicine and a residency in psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital and is board certified in psychiatry.

Fernandez and his wife, Susan, an educational consultant who focuses on dyslexia, have two children. His family

emigrated from a suburb of Havana, Cuba, to New York when he was a boy. “I always joke about bypassing the Miami connection everyone thinks about,” he said.

He said his early experiences with different immigrant and minority groups in New York gave him a rich spectrum of community. “It gave me personal characteristics of not being judgmental or disparaging but being fascinated by the opportunities that were available and keeping an open mind to life,” he said.

VOTE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Cavazos, Arnulfo Garza, Cecilia Gonzalez and Alma Muñoz.

Morales and Frazier, who are juniors at UTB’s Mathematics and Science Academy, both attended the event and read their essays, “We Are Not Satisfied” and “Our People’s Dreams to Let Freedom Ring,” respectively, to the audience.

The Center for Civic Engagement will host a Get Out the Vote Contest. Student groups, staff or faculty participants of UTB will be asked to encourage their colleagues and any registered voter in Cameron County to cast their vote at the UTB polling site, located in the Student Union’s La Sala, during the second week of early voting, Feb. 24-28, according to the contest rules.

For more information, visit utb.edu/vpaa/cce/project100/Pages/Project100.aspx.

Is it a match?



AMANDA ARREDONDO/COLLEGIAN PHOTOS

Mitch Clark, a musician from Floyd, Va., performs at Cupid’s Corner, a Valentine’s Day celebration sponsored Friday by the Campus Activities Board. A total of 150 students attended the event.



Art education sophomore Annette Sosa asks questions to three potential bachelors during “Got Game,” which was part of Student Engagement and Campus Activities Board’s Cupid’s Corner Valentine’s Day celebration, held Friday in the Student Union’s Gran Salón. Sosa chose sophomore biology major Erick Estrella as her “date.” Each received a \$10 gift card to Chick-Fil-A.

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